

SUMMARY OF THE 4th FREIGHT RAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Time and Location

This meeting was held on Tuesday, March 25, at Louisiana DOTD headquarters.

Meeting Attendees

The following persons attended the meeting:

Advisory Council Members/Representatives

Carmack Blackmon, Louisiana Railroad Association
Karen Parsons, Regional Planning Commission
Tom Lobello, New Orleans Public Belt Railroad
Bill Wainright, Delta Southern Railroad
Gladney Dillon, Louisiana and North West Railroad

Non-Member DOTD Staff

Dan Broussard, DOTD
Eric Kalivoda, DOTD
Tom Atkinson, DOTD
David Cullen, DOTD

Consultant Team Member(s)

Justin Fox, Wilbur Smith Associates

Others

Eric Phillips, Rubicon Inc.
Billy Eason, Louisiana and Delta Railroad
Bill Slinkard, Louisiana and Delta Railroad

Meeting Purpose

Discussion of Draft Final Report.

The discussion resulted in various changes to tables appearing in the Draft Final Report of the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan. These are as follows.

Changes to Draft Final Report

1. Page 7-39. The title of Table 7-11 should now read: Survey Results – Immediate Unfunded Capital Needs of Small Railroads

2. Page 7-40. Bottom of Table 7-11. Two notes should be added:
 - Class 1 railroads were not surveyed to assess their needs.
 - The list of unfunded needs will be updated periodically.
3. Page 9-3, fourth dash. The item should read: - Provide \$5 million annually to establish State funding assistance for railroads – to address bottlenecks, “286,000 pound” improvements, upgrading lines to help with agricultural shipments, and circuitry upgrades, and to match federal passenger rail funding, if available.
4. Page 9-12. Various changes to Table 9-4.
 - Recommendation number 5 should read: Add three positions to the Rail Section of DOTD, including a Rail Safety Compliance Officer and two program managers
 - Recommendation number 6, which talks of pursuing improvements for private rail crossings, is to be omitted from the plan.
 - Recommendation number 7 should be amended by adding to the end of the paragraph the line: and rail connectivity to sugar cane mills
 - Recommendation number 8 should have the word “small” deleted.
 - A 10th recommendation should be added: Research incentive programs for closures of grade crossings, public and private.

This last recommendation should show funding scenario “2,3”. The cost should be “\$0.3”. It should be cited as Recommendation # “R-13”

Changes to the State Rail Plan

The fifth recommendation should be changed to read as follows:

- Establish state funding for railroads. A level of \$3-5 million per year for railroad assistance is in line with funding levels provided by other states (see Appendix B). The program here would allow some funding for projects affecting Class 1 railroads. It is important...(no further changes)

The ninth recommendation pertaining to private grade crossings should be omitted from the plan.

A 13th recommendation should be added:

- Research incentive programs for closures of grade crossings, public and private.